

REMARKS ON MYSCELUS EPIGONA HERRICH-SCHAFFER AND EUDAMUS CASICA HERRICH-SCHAFFER. (LEPIDOPTERA—RHOPALOCERA, HESPERIIDAE)

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There is in the North American Fauna a large Hesperid standing in our literature under the name of *epigona* Herrich-Schaffer, with the synonyms *epigena* Butler and *orestes* Edwards (Lintner MSS), which has been assigned by authors in their papers, to various genera, viz.: *Eudamus*, *Phoedinus*, *Thorybes*, *Achalarus* and *Rhabdoides*.

Dr. Draudt, in Seitz's *Macrolepidoptera of the World, Fauna Americana*, page 848, places *epigona* Herrich-Schaffer in the genus *Myscelus* of the *Pyrrhopyginæ*, and refers to *casica* Herrich-Schaffer, in the genus *Rhabdoides* of the *Hesperiinæ*, page 871, the insect that we have been calling *epigona* Herrich-Schaffer, placing as synonyms of *casica*, the two names above mentioned as synonyms of *epigona*.

Herrich-Schaffer's description of *epigona* is contained in his key to the species of the genus *Myscelus* on pages 166 and 167 of the "Correspondenz-Blatt des Zoologisch-Mineralogischen Vereines in Regensburg," Vol. 23, 1869; on page 167 is the following (translated from the German):

"b ——— in cell 1c deeply excavated, the spots of cells 3 and 4, also 6 and 7, separated only by the fine veins.

17 *epigona* HS

18 *phoronis* Hew.

19 *amystis* Hew."

The brief description in the key would, of course, be inadequate to separate from each other the three species mentioned, but it serves to show that the three were of similar shape and maculation, and in Herrich-Schaffer's opinion closely related to each other; the genus *Myscelus*, to-day, contains a number of

species of similar and peculiar appearance, quite distinct and unlikely to be confused with the species of any other genus; it seems very unlikely that Herrich-Schaffer would include with *Myscelus phoronis* and *amystis* as congeneric and of similar habitus, a species so very different in all respects as our so-called *epigona*.

Dr. Draudt, in Seitz's *Macrolepidoptera of the World*, says that *epigona* is similar to *Myscelus orbis* Mabille but more yellowish-brown, and other minor differences, perhaps a northern representative of it, from Venezuela. In the same volume of the "Correspondenz-Blatt" on page 187, Herrich-Schaffer describes *Eudamus casica* as follows (translated from the German) :

"b ——— shifted towards the border, the spot under vein 2 small triangular, those of cells 2 and 3 vertical linear, 4 with a dot; underside of the hindwings with a quarter of the border white sprinkled with dark ——— 17 *casica* HS."

Herrich-Schaffer divides the genus *Eudamus* into groups and places *casica* in the second section of "Group II" with twenty-two other species, now assigned to various genera. It will be noted that, by a coincidence, both *epigona* and *casica* are number 17 in their respective groups. The above description is, of course, very brief and without locality data, but it agrees quite well with our so-called *epigona*. *Casica* seems to have been overlooked or omitted from a great deal of the literature.

Butler in *Transactions, Entomological Society of London*, Volume IV, page 493, 1870, describes *Eudamus epigena*, and gives as a reference "*Myscelus epigena* Herr.-Schaff.; *in litt*"; with "Hab. Mexico. Coll. Kaden in Coll. Druce"; again in his *Lepidoptera Exotica*, page 65, 1871, he describes *epigena* and figures it on plate XXV, figure 6; but he refers only to his first description in *Transactions, Entomological Society of London*, omitting any reference to Herrich-schaffer's description, however, immediately preceding his description, in small type, is the following comment :

"This and several other species of Hesperidæ have been introduced by Dr. Herrich-Schaffer into a mystical

diagnostic table, but, as he himself informs us, that he did not intend to give any descriptions (“das ich keine Beschreibungen geben wollte”) it is useless for me to quote them.”

It, of course, makes no difference that Dr. Herrich-Schaffer did not *intend* to describe the species included in his keys that were new to science; the fact remains that he did describe them, and these descriptions are just as valid as if it were his intention to describe them; it seems probable that when Butler wrote his description of *epigena*, in Transactions, Entomological Society of London, he confused Herrich-Schaffer's *Myscelus epigena* with some other species which Herrich-Schaffer had, apparently the species he described as *casica*, and later, when he wrote his Lepidoptera Exotica, he considered that his original description of *epigena* was valid, in the belief, that as Dr. Herrich-Schaffer did not intend to describe the species, his description would not hold.

Godman and Salvin, in the Biologia Centrali-Americana, Rhopalocera, page 332, 1893, say:

“Mr. Butler described this species as *Eudamus epigena* from a specimen purporting to be the type of Herrich-Schaffer's *Myscelus epigena*.”

This seems to imply that there was some doubt in their minds that the description was drawn from the type of *epigena*; they place it in the genus *Rhabdoides*, as *epigena* Herrich-Schaffer with *epigena* Butler as a synonym.

Lintner, Entomological Contributions, no. IV, June, 1878, pages 69-70, (30th Annual Report of the New York State Museum of Natural History, for the year 1876), publishes a description of *Eudamus epigena* Butler from a pair of specimens in the collection of Mr. Otto von Meske, from Bastrop, Texas, and makes this statement in regard to *orestes*:

“In the belief that the insect was new to science, it was described by me as *Eudamus Orestes*, for publication in the 28th N. Y. Mus. Report, then passing through the press; but in the necessitated printing of the report at an earlier date than was anticipated, the description could not (together with other papers in readiness) be

given place. Hence, the erroneous reference made to *Orestes* on page 58 of Edwards's Catalogue of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of North America.

“Subsequently, Mr. W. H. Edwards identified the species with a figure of Butler in his Lepidoptera Exotica.”

From the facts as they stand, the name *epigona* Herrich-Schaffer is not justified for the species in the North American fauna and should be dropped, and for it substituted, *casica* Herrich-Schaffer, following Dr. Draudt.

As mentioned before the species has been assigned to various genera by authors but for the purpose of this paper we follow Dr. Lindsey, University of Iowa Studies (Hesperoidea of America North of Mexico), Vol. IX, no. 4, pages 28-29, 1921, who places it (as *epigona*) in the genus *Achalarus*. The usual records of *epigona* undoubtedly refer to *casica*, as do those of *epigena*, though there are many records of its distribution the following will suffice as they cover all of the recorded localities known to the writer:

SKINNER, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., XXXVII, 3, 185, 1911; “Arizona, Southern Texas, Mexico, Guatemala.”

MABILLE, Genera Insectorum, Lep. Rhop., page 29, 1903; “Columbia.”

GODMAN and SALVIN, Biologia Centrali-Americana, page 332, 1893; “Very little is known of the species in Mexico, whence the type is said to have come, but across our border in Texas and Arizona it appears to be fairly numerous. The Mexican domicile of the species is fully confirmed by a specimen captured by Mr. H. J. Elwes at Orizaba, and, moreover, its extension southwards is proved by a specimen taken by Mr. Champion at San Gerónimo in Guatemala, and one sent us from the Valley of the Polochic.”

Draudt, in Seitz, states that it is found from Arizona to Colombia. The specimens in the collection of the writer are all from southern Arizona: Paradise, May, June (Duffner); Tucson, Baboquivaria Mountains, June, July (Poling).

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DRAUDT. Seitz Macrolepidoptera of the World. American Fauna, page 848, 1921; page 1003; plate 164g.

Achalarus casica.

HERRICH-SCHAFFER. Correspondenz-Blatt des Zoologisch-Mineralogischen Vereines in Regensburg, Vol. XXIII, no. 12, page 187, 1869 (No. 17). (*Eudamus.*)

KIRBY. A Synonymic Catalogue of Diurnal Lepidoptera, page 578, no. 6, 1871. (*Æthilla.*)

DRAUDT. Seitz Macrolepidoptera of the World. American Fauna, page 871, 1922; page 1048; plate 169b. (*Rhabdoides.*)

Achalarus epigena.

BUTLER. Transactions Entomological Society, London, page 493, 1870. (*Eudamus.*)

Lepidoptera Exotica, page 65; plate 25, figure 6, 1871. (*Eudamus.*)

KIRBY. A Synonymic Catalogue of Diurnal Lepidoptera. Appendix, page 655, 1871; Supplement, page 815, page 860, 1871-1877. (*Thymele.*)

EDWARDS. Transactions American Entomological Society, Vol. VI, page 58, 1877 (Catalogue of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico). (*Eudamus.*)

STRECKER. Butterflies and Moths of North America; A Complete Synonymical Catalogue of the Macrolepidoptera with a full Bibliography, page 162 (no. 342), 1878. (*Eudamus.*)

LINTNER. Entomological Contributions (30th Annual Report of the N. Y. State Museum of Natural History for the Year 1876), pages 69-70, 1878. (*Eudamus.*)

EDWARDS. Papilio, II, page 141, 1882. (*Eudamus.*)

EDWARDS. Revised Catalogue of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico, page 78 (no. 594), 1884. (*Eudamus.*)

DYAR. Journal New York Entomological Society, XIII, page 115, 1905. (*Phædinus.*)

HOLLAND. Butterfly Book, page 325; plate XLVIII, figure 13, 1914. (*Thorybes.*)

Achalarus epigona.

AUCT. (Not Herrich-Schaffer.)

GODMAN AND SALVIN. Biologia Centrali-Americana, page 332, plate LXXX, figures 9, 10, 11; 1893. (*Rhabdoides.*)

SKINNER. Synonymic Catalogue of the North American Rhopalocera, page 97 (no. 627), 1898. (*Eudamus.*)

DYAR. Bulletin 52, U. S. National Museum (List of North American Lepidoptera), page 58 (no. 592), 1902. (*Thorybes.*)

MABILLE. Genera Insectorum, Lepidoptera Rhopalocera, page 29, 1903. (*Rhabdoides.*)

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Achalarus epigina.

- EDWARDS. Butterflies of North America, Vol. II, 1884; List of Species of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico (no. 594). (*Eudamus*.)

Achalarus orestes.

- EDWARDS (Lintner Mss). Transactions American Entomological Society, Vol. VI, page 58, 1877; Catalogue of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of America North of Mexico, no. 494. (*Eudamus*.)

COCKROACHES FOR TETANUS AND INDIGESTION

In the New York *Tribune* for January 3, 1886, under the title "The Creole Doctor," Lafcadio Hearn wrote entertainingly of the curious medical recipes of Louisiana negroes. Among the various remedies for diverse ills, mention is made of cockroach tea for tetanus, supplemented by a poultice of boiled roaches over the wound, and of cockroaches fried in oil with garlic for indigestion. Hearne writes of the "amazing" size of *Blatta orientalis* in Louisiana and the few that would be required for a large plaster, but such an adjective would hardly apply to *orientalis* and it is quite likely that some other species is meant. Hearn's newspaper articles have been collected by Albert Mordell and published recently by Dodd, Mead and Company, under the title "Occidental Gleanings."—H. B. W.